

REMARKS

35 U.S.C. Section 103 Rejections

Paragraphs 1-2 of the above referenced Office Action rejects Claims 1-20 as being obvious over Francis et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,181,842 (hereafter Francis) in view of Beatty et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,233,502 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a). Applicants respectfully traverse. Applicants have herein amended independent Claims 1, 10, and 16 to more particularly point out aspects of the present invention.

With respect to independent Claim 1, Claim 1 as amended discloses a touch screen display for a personal information device, comprising in part:

* * *

a single piece device enclosure integrated with the optical touch sensor, the single piece device enclosure having a transparent surface for viewing the display disposed beneath the transparent surface, the single piece device enclosure encasing the personal information device and including a lens structure for columnating light across the transparent surface, the optical touch sensor coupled to the lens structure to register contact with the transparent surface via the lens structure while the single piece device enclosure prevents contaminants from entering the personal information device.

* * *

The claimed invention explicitly recites the single piece device enclosure integrated with the optical touch sensor. The device enclosure has a transparent surface to view the display. Since the device enclosure is single piece, it prevents contaminants, such as, for example, dust, water, or other environmental contaminants, from entering the device. Independent Claim 1 has been explicitly amended to recite the device enclosure encasing the personal information device. This means the components comprising the personal information device are encased within the device enclosure.

Applicant respectfully points out that cited section of Beatty (e.g., Beatty Figure 1, item 10) does not show a device enclosure encasing the personal information device. The Figure 1 of Beatty appears to show an enclosure for only a screen (e.g., item 13 of Beatty

Figure 1). The remainder of the device appears to reside within a second enclosure (e.g., item 2 of Beatty Figure 1). This is completely different from the claimed invention.

Additionally, Applicant respectfully asserts that Francis teaches away from the claimed invention. The integration disclosed and taught by Francis is with respect to optics into a wave guide array. Accordingly, Applicant asserts that a device in accordance with Francis contemplates a seam, or similar junction, between the digitizer 10 (shown in Figure 1A of Francis) and a device enclosure or device case. There is no disclosure or suggestion of any device enclosure being integrated with the digitizer 10, optical systems, or send substrate. This is clearly shown by a comparison of Figure 1A of Francis with, for example, Figure 2 of the above referenced Application. As described above, Francis even in combination with Beatty does not show a device enclosure as in the claimed invention.

Thus, Applicant respectfully asserts that the present invention as recited in Claim 1 and dependent Claims 2-8 is not rendered obvious by Francis and Beatty within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a).

With respect to independent Claims 10, and 16, Claim 10 has been amended to recite a single piece device enclosure forming a single mechanical structure with a lens structure for encasing a personal information device. Claim 16 has been amended to recite a lens structure coupled to a transparent surface to form a single mechanical device enclosure for encasing a portable electronic device. Applicant respectfully asserts that, for the same reasons as discussed above, the present invention as recited in Claim 10 and Claim 16 is not rendered obvious by the Francis Beatty combination within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a).

CONCLUSION

All remaining claims of the present application are now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is urged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application. Please charge any additional fees or apply any credits to our PTO deposit account number: 23-0085.

Respectfully submitted,
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